

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 006245
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 OES-06 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 /027 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS:MRC
APPROVED BY NEA/IRN:CWNAAS
-----120233Z 011726 /64

P 112326Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 006245

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IR

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAMS

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY JACK CLOHERTY AND BOB OWENS, WAS RELEASED JANUARY 10 BY LOS ANGELES TIME SYNDICATE:
"WASHINGTON--A CONFIDENTIAL STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT OFFERS NEW EVIDENCE THAT IRAN IS PLANNING TO DEVELOP AN ATOMIC BOMB.

THE OIL-RICH NATION HAS RECENTLY EMBARKED UPON 'ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST AMBITIOUS NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS,' THE STATE DEPARTMENT MEMO NOTES. THE SHAH HAS CLAIMED THAT THE NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT IS ONLY TO BE USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

BUT THE CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT REVEALS THAT IRAN HAS BEEN WORKING ON SEVERAL SECRET DEALS THAT WOULD GIVE THE PERSIAN-GULF POWER THE MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO CONSTRUCT A NUCLEAR WEAPON.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 006245

PUBLICLY, THE SHAH HAS DENIED THAT IRAN WOULD TRY TO OBTAIN THE NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT, NECESSARY TO SUPPLY THE PLUTONIUM NEEDED TO BUILD THE BOMB. THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENT REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT SECRET NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BETWEEN IRAN AND WEST GERMANY TO INCLUDE IN THE (NUCLEAR SALES) AGREEMENT A

COMMITMENT BY THE GERMANS TO SELL A REPROCESSING PLANT TO IRAN SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO ACQUIRE ONE IN THE FUTURE.'

IRAN HAS ALSO DENIED REPORTS THAT IT HAS AGREED TO PURCHASE DOLS 700 MILLION WORTH OF URANIUM FROM SOUTH AFRICA. URANIUM IS THE RAW MATERIAL NEEDED TO FUEL MOST REACTORS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENT CONFIRMS THE DEAL, AND NOTES THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS INSISTED ON SECRECY BECAUSE 'THE EXACT SOURCE OF THE ORE MAY BE IN NAMIBIA RATHER THAN (SOUTH AFRICA) ITSELF.'

THE DOCUMENT ALSO REPORTS THAT IRAN'S EFFORTS TO SECURE URANIUM SUPPLIES FOR THE FUTURE HAVE BEEN 'FEVERISH.'

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE SHAH'S INTENTIONS COMES FROM THE MASSIVE NUCLEAR TRAINING PROGRAM HE HAS INITIATED, AND FROM HIS RELUCTANCE TO PURCHASE MAJOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE A NATURAL NUCLEAR SUPPLIER, SINCE IT IS ALREADY SUPPLYING BILLIONS IN ARMS AID TO IRAN. BUT THE UNITED STATES PLACES TIGHTER SAFEGUARDS ON NUCLEAR SALES THAN MOST OTHER NATIONS.

'AMERICAN INDUSTRY IS PARTICIPATING IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM, BUT THE MAJOR COMMERCIAL PRIZES . . . HAVE THUS FAR GONE TO COMPETITORS, OWING TO A CONFLICT BETWEEN QUITE JUSTIFIABLE AMERICAN CONCERNS ABOUT NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS ON THE ONE HAND AND IRANIAN PRIDE ON THE OTHER,' THE DOCUMENT NOTES.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 006245

AMERICAN FIRMS WOULD ALSO FACE EXPENSIVE, AND POSSIBLY LEGAL, OBSTACLES IN DOING BUSINESS WITH IRAN, THE MEMO REPORTS.

'FOREIGN COUNSULTANTS' ARE OBLIGED TO OPERATE THROUGH FIRMS ESTABLISHED BY 'TWO INFLUENTIAL IRANIANS. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS A NATURAL FOR RAKE-OFFS AND INFLUENCE PEDDLING,' THE MEMO WARNS.

ONE OF THE IRANIAN MIDDLEMEN IS ABOLFATH MAHVI, WHO RECENTLY HANDLED A DEAL BETWEEN THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AND

ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL ON A MAJOR ELECTRONICS PURCHASE. MAHVI'S 'AGENT'S FEE' WAS REPORTEDLY NEAR DOLS 5 MILLION, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER OR NOT ROCKWELL WAS FORCED TO PAY HIM.

A NUMBER OF AMERICAN CONSULTING FIRMS ALREADY HAVE

LANDED NUCLEAR CONSULTING CONTRACTS THROUGH MAHVI'S FIRM, BUT THE MEMO REPORTS THAT NOTHING IMPROPER 'HAS BEEN EXPOSED THUS FAR.'

IF THE SHAH'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM IS SUCCESSFUL IN GIVING IRAN A NUCLEAR WEAPON CAPABILITY, IT OBVIOUSLY WILL

CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR OTHER MIDDLE EASTERN NATIONS. STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES SAY THAT IRAN'S HIGH POWERED NUCLEAR PROGRAM HAS ALREADY HAD AN EFFECT IN NEIGHBORING SAUDI ARABIA.

THE SAUDIS ARE AFRAID THAT THE SHAH'S EXPRESSED DREAM OF RE-ESTABLISHING A PERSIAN EMPIRE INCLUDES PLANS TO TAKE OVER THEIR NATION. SO NOW THE SAUDIS, THESE SOURCES SAY, ARE SCRAMBLING TO DEVELOP SOME KIND OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 006245

NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF THEIR OWN.

THIS SAME DOMINO EFFECT IN NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS GOING ON BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. ONCE INDIA GOT THE BOMB, PAKISTAN LAUNCHED A NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. LAST WEEK THIS COLUMN REPORTED THAT PAKISTAN NEARLY CLOSED A DEAL WITH CANADA TO GAIN THE EQUIPMENT IT NEEDED TO PRODUCE A BOMB.

THE QUICKLY EXPANDING NUMBER OF NATIONS WHO WANT TO JOIN THE 'NUCLEAR CLUB' UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING NEW AND TOUGHER INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE BOMB."

2. SEPTEL CARRIES DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT.
ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, NUCLEAR BOMBS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE006245
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CWNAAS:MRC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770011-0182
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770161/aaaacbqn.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1072fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3621955
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORT ON IRANIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAMS
TAGS: SOPN, ENRG, IR, (CLOHERTY, JACK), (OWENS, BOB)
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1072fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009